

Principals and traditions that were foundational to RHS student achievements

A popular Gary School System educational motto has been “It is not for school, but for life that we learn”. A popular social motto among Roosevelt Alumni has been “There are 2 kinds of people in Gary: Those who attended Roosevelt High School, and those who wished they did.

Without a doubt, Roosevelt students excelled in local, regional, and state sports competitions through the years. Theodore Roosevelt High School students and faculty have also been renown as National Merit Scholar Awardees, as scientists, doctors, lawyers, judges, as educators/college professors, as entertainers of instrumental/vocal music, as actors in theatres/television/movies, as journalists. Photographers, military officers, as independent business owners, Chief Executive Officers of major corporations, grocery managers, steel mill foremen/supervisors, City Hall Department Heads, politicians, bankers, as skilled tradesmen: plumbers, carpenters, welders, mechanics, - - as parents & managers of the next generations leaders.

Here are a very few basic core beliefs of that Roosevelt legacy.

ALL those victorious champions and outstanding scholars started as a Negro student with hopes and dreams. What enabled them to achieve beyond the ordinary “Jim Crow” expectations was their experience in the Roosevelt School legacy and the Gary Negro community of those years.

“A word to the wise should be sufficient.” This means hat a wise or intelligent person can take a hint and does not need a long explanation.

The Roosevelt Family unites to help its members, who lack resources and to look presentable when the door of opportunity opens to them.

Education **IS** the key that opens the door to opportunity.

Always demonstrate respect to authority.

The school grounds are sacred, safe havens to be protected and well maintained.

All Negroes must lead the way for following generations to have hope, to get prepared and to be ready when their opportunities arrive.

Speak proper English and use a modulated volume in conversations.

Be punctual in presence and on task. Be clean and appropriately dressed to impress.

The Negro must be smarter, better skilled, and better able to endure abusive conditions than the White people among, whom s/he works in order to remain in privileged positions.

Don't thin it strange that Negroes must be better and more advanced that Caucasians to receive the same opportunity.

Negroes must demonstrate behaviors that are above reproach: to keep opportunities we receive; to keep from bringing shame on our race of people, our families, our teachers & preachers, those, who invested in us; and to (eventually) bring shame to those, who wrongly accuse & indict us hoping to displace us from our positions.

Negroes must, as necessary, hold their peace and persevere through nfair treatment =, not just for themselves, but to make it better for those persons following in your path.

In challenging situations be respectful in the investigation, tell the truth. Appeal to & trust those in authority to bring justice (oftentimes working behind the scenes).

Pomp and circumstance in commencement services should be dignified and orderly.

Listen and learn.

Timothy 2:15 says "Study to show yourself approved – a workman, who needs not be ashamed. Prepare yourself. Know your content thoroughly and accurately, so that your work is without blemish."

Despite circumstances and obvious shortcomings in your life, you can achieve any goal, if you are willing to work and sacrifice for it.

Life does not drop good opportunities in our lap, but strategically plants them along your journey. YOU must have a vision of where you want to go, prepare and work to be ready to receive the opportunity when it comes; and handle the opportunity with honor as if you value it and want it to continue to grow in your life.

Honor your commitments.

Time, effort, and perseverance are critical blocks in the path to your dreams.

This is why the history of Roosevelt high School is important. It is important because the bricks and mortar between 22nd & 25th Avenues and Harrison Street is a location. it is not the spirit & legacy of Roosevelt High School. The Roosevelt Legacy emphasized by the faculty and students in the Roosevelt Family ***every day*** was to study, to teach, to challenge, to condition individuals to prepare for and seek opportunities that seemed unattainable; then to manifest them in their lives and pass those lessons to unborn generations.